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THE
DECLARATION
OF THE
BRITISH

in the North of Ireland.

With some Queries of Colonel
MONK,

And the Answers of the BRITISH
to the QUERIES.



37 Printed Anno Dom. 1649.

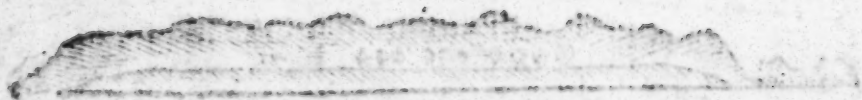
THE
DECLARATION

OF THE
BRITISH

IN THE NAME OF GOD
VIZ. SOME QUERIES OF COLONEL

M O N K

And the ANSWERS of the BRITISH
to the QUERIES.



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Queries propounded by Colonell *Monk*, to the
Counsell of War, at *Belfast*, the 9. of

April. 1649.



Desire to know what cause You have to distrust Me, for my faithfulness to the good Cause You stand for?

2 Why do You grow upon Me dayly by new Propositions, and are not satisfied with these which the Presbytery at first propounded, but assume an unlimited power to Your selves?

3. Why do you declare against that prevalent party in England without Order or advice from England, and thereby do in all appearance, prejudice the good Party oppressed there, by declaring your selves sooner, then they think it seasonable; And yet to suffer Malignants in your Quarters contrary to Order.

4. I desire to know, (in regard of our dependence upon England) whom it is that We shall serve for the present?

Answers given by the Counsell of War, to Colonell
MONK his fore-mentioned Queries.

TO the first nothing can be inferred from our actions implying distrust of you, or your faithfulness to the good Cause; since we are willing and desirous yet to trust you.

To the 2. It cannot be thought strange, that we have other propositions (besides the Presbyteries) in regard of our different relation, neither do we conceive that adding to our just desire, upon new Emergence, can be called an assumed unlimited Power.

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3. Albeit, when lawfull Authority is suppressed, an Order be impossible to be obtained, yet as we are Christians, our duties to God, and lawfull Authority, yes us to declare against the Publick Enemies of our God, such as are now the prevalent partie in England, who have overturned Authority, from which we might have expected Orders. And besides, the Protestation of many Members of both the Houses of Parliament, the Protestation of the Kingdom of Scotland, the Representatiō of the Ministery, the Apologetical Declaration of many thousand Citizens, in and about the City of LONDON, all against the present prevalent courses of the Sectaries, may be unto us, in place of a strong advice, to joyne with them, in declaring against them, and disallowing of their proceedings As also for Malignants you understand we conceive, only such who were engaged against England; none whereof are by us Publickly owned, and if any be privately sheltered, when they are discovered, we shall take such course with them, as shall be incumbent unto us.

To the 4. As we have hitherto in relation to England, served the King & Parliament thereof, whose just Power rights and priviledges we are deeply sworn to maintain and defend in our solemne League and Covenant, so we resolve faithfully and constantly to serve, and adhere unto them, though (now for a time) they be violently bereft of the exercise of their just and lawfull power.

Propositions presented to Colonel MONK,
by the Army.

First, that he and all under his Command, solemnly swear, and subscribe the Solemne League and Covenant.

2. That He and They do signe the Declaration to be emitted by the Army at their meeting.

3. That he shall not obey or execut any Order that shall be sent unto him, from the now Prevalent power in England.

4. That untill it please God to establish a free Parliament in England, that he will act nothing wherein the Army is publicly concerned, or dispose of any fortified Garrison, without the advice and consent of a Counsell of War, first called by him, consisting at least of two Officers out of each Regiment, whereof one a Field Officer, the other, a Captain chosen by consent of the Regiment.

5. That He be pleased to give out of the Magazine unto each Regiment and troop, a proportionable quantity of Ammunition, and Armes to be in custody of the Commander in Chief of every severall Regiment, for the which Hee is to be comptable. These are the most moderat desires, by assenting whereunto we conceive our Religion and our selves can be secured: Which being granted, we do firmly oblige our selves to obey His Commands.

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The Countries Propositions to Colonell MONK.

First that nothing be done wherein the Countrey is concerned, such as the equall and just distribution of the Quarters, the adding to, increasing, or diminishing the present standing Forces, or associating with any Party, and other particulars of the like nature, without the consent of a Committee, consisting of equall number of the Army and Countrey first called, the which is to be called upon any just Complaint.

2. That if We shall be invited by any of our Covenanted Brethren in this Kingdome for their Defence in maintaining of the Covenant, against the opposers thereof, that the General, and this meeting, shall receive them in this association, for mutuall defence, in so far as may contribute for the ends of the Covenant, and for their preservation in pursuance thereof.

3. That in regard of apparent hazards, and the many Enemies of the Covenant, we desire that the Countrey may be presently put in a Posture of Defence, and that their Forces shall not be disposed of, without the consent of the Committee above mentioned.

4. That before parting, an equall number of the Army and Countrey be chosen for the ordering of the businesse as is aforesaid.

5. That as we have desired a proportionable quantity of Ammunition and Armes, may be given to the Army. We do likewise desire, that a competent number of armes with Ammunition, may be put into the severall Regiments Magazines for their Quarters use upon necessity.

6. Considering, that throw the General's declaring against the present prevailing Party in England, His proper meanes may be obstructed: Therefore Wee shall lay down a course, notwithstanding of the great poverty of the Countrey, for his subsistence, till means come from England.

The Counsell of Wars Declaration.

AS Wee cannot without great Rejoycing and Thanksgiving think upon the first blessed vowing of our selves in the Land, by a solemne League and Covenant unto the Lord our God; So We cannot without great sorrow and remorse (We pray God give Us so much as we ought) call to mind the fearfull back-slidings and out-breakings that have been in all manner of Persons, some by not indeavouring to performe what they did seem

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truly to intend, others by never intending what the genuine sense of the Oath did oblige them to performe, which do clearly appear by the great Defection of many from the Covenant, their joyning in the late unlawfull Engagement against England, and by the Actions, Discourses, and new Propositions of diverse at this time, contrary to the same: For remedy of all which, that the just might not passe with the unjust, we heartily praise the Lord for the giving of his servants of the Miniltry, here the boldnesse to move the renewing, and the rest of his people, the readynes and willingnesse to renew that solemne and sacred vow: and least after such mercies, We should grow secure, and suffer our selves to fall into our former Errours, especially when so great powers have assembled themselves against the Lord and his Christ. We have thought it necessary, not to rest satisfied with the swearing of the Covenant, which many false Brethren formerly did, but with *Daniel*, who opened his windows towards the East, to witnesse his avouching of the service of his God, so by this Declaration do we testifie to the world, that we have sincerely and faithfully without any equivocation sworn the said Oath according to the true and clear meaning of each Article thereof, as well Civill as Ecclesiasticall, so we shall by the strength of God, with our lives and fortunes, maintaine the same against the opposers and Enemies thereof, as well private underminers, as publique opposers; whether *Papists*, *Sectaries*, or *Malignants*, not doubting but their powers may be great; yet the Lord our God, will deliver us from them, or if he doe not, yet we will not serve their gods, nor by any connivance, or politick lukewarmnesse, be any wayes partakers of their iniquities, least we justly provoke our God to spew us out of his mouth, and suffer us to be swallowed up in their judgments, & having found out how dangerous, consequence, it is to leave power in the hands of these, as are refusers of the Covenant, or double minded at it, being so far against our Vowes therein, made to the Lord & Holts; and such an apt meanes to breed division amongst our selves, and advance the designs of these who wish its and our ruine: We doe declare that we will have none in our Army, nor associate our selves with any, but such as shall like and renew this solemne League and Covenant, and particularlie, that we shall not receive into publick charge into our Army, nor associate our selves at any time hereafter, with such as have been violent promoters of the late unlawful engagement against *England*, nor with any who have formerly been known to have been *Malignantly* affected, did goe on upon the same, untill there shall bee a publick way agreed upon by King and Parliament, for receiving of such upon evidence of their repentance, with the advice of the Church: Neither shall we receive into charge, any whosoever have gone upon the former Ingagement, before they have first, not onely given publick signes of repentance to the Church, but also, shall have satisfied the officers of the Army of their good deserving, and procured a testimoniall from the Presbyterie, of their honest behaviour: nor shall we trust any other notorious *Malignants*; before they have given constant obedience of their resenting their former *Malignant* courses; and (if when upon such signes given, they shall be received to charge, if they shall yet at any time venture their *Malignancy* by discourse, or otherwise, we shall instantly thereupon remove them from their respective charges. And more especially, we shall not associate our selves with the Marquesse of *Ormond*, nor with any of his partie, so long as they shall

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shall combyne with *Papists*, or other forementioned *Malignants*, and shal not swear
and subscribe the solemn League and Covenant, as we have done here; and where-
as the Sectarian partie in *England* of late, hes usurped an illegall power over both
King and Parliament, and are resolving an universall Tolleration of Religion, and
the subversion of lawfull Government, by Kings, Lords, and Commons, and have
taken upon them to proclaime all adherers to the foresaid just Government in
the person of the present King, to be Rebels and Traitors. All which the said
usurped practises they visibly intend to force upon us in this Kingdome, so soon
as they can transport their power thither, to be obeyed and receaved by us, con-
trare to our sworne solemn League and Covenant: and for this cause, we doe
faithfully obliedge our selves unanimously with our estates and lives, to resist and
oppose any such irregular Power which shall proceed from them, and
that we shall maintaine the Government of the Church here, together with the
just power of the King and Parliament in the state, against the opposers thereof.
And being confident that these our present intentions, will not want bitter and
false aspersions of all sorts, and particularly that by this act we intend to, shake
off our due obedience to the Crowne of *England*, and desist from prosecuting
the service against the *Irish* Rebels, wherein wee were imployed by King and
Parliament; we do hereby declare, that we shall really demean our selves as be-
cometh faithfull and loyall Subjects to the Crown of *England*, and shall at all
times give due obedience to the King and free Parliament thereof. And untill it
shall please God to establishe these according to our solemn League and Cove-
nant, we shall prosecute, by Gods help and assistance, sincerely the Common Ene-
my, and advance by Gods assistance all the ends thereof. And least by misunder-
standing, or carnall reasoning, we might be drawn to any thing contrare to the
word of God, and our solemn Ingagements, we are resolved to proceed to no-
thing, whatsoever in reference to Religion, without advise of Gods Ministers
and servants here given unto us in the same, but shall be ready according to our
power, to prosecute every meane of surety to our Religion, which they
shall propose to us according to the word of God, and the Covenant, and that
they and our consciences may bear us witnesse of the integrity of our hearts, and
that we may with the more confidence, expect the blessing of God upon our pro-
ceedings, we shall take care that sin may be suppressed in our Army, all scanda-
lous persons, and disobedient to Church censures, put out of it, and for removing
of all jealousies, our Quarters may have that upon this change of affaires, they
may suffer prejudice; we do hereby assure them, that we shall equally regard their
respective standings, aswell as our owne. These our resolutions being pondred by
any well affected person, we are confident, will seem as just, as necessary: It is e-
vident to the world our consciences in matters of Religion, loyall to our Sove-
raigne the Lords anoynted, whose Fathers unpareld execution, our souls ab-
horres, and we tremble to name, and whose just Succession, He giving security
for maintaining all the Articles and ends of the solemn League and Covenant,
before He be admitted to the exercise of His Royall Power, We are resolved to
maintain with our Lives and Fortunes, to our duties, the Parliaments of the
united Kingdomes, our own mutuall Liberties, Lives and Safeties. Withall our
solemn vowes unto the Lord our God, which are likely to be most impiouly
violated.

violated. Neither We hope will any believe We precipitate when they consider
the present power of Sectaries, the secret and open enemies of the Kingdoms,
the want of affection of many amongst our selves, and the great opportunity
they have by every dayes delay to subvert that which we are most obleidged
to maintain. Lastly, the Subscribers do faithfully and solemnly promise, that We
do truly intend, and shall zealously prosecute by the assistance of God, with singe-
nesse of heart, having still Gods glory and Honour before our eyes, all the seve-
rall points of this Declaration, and as We earnestly desire, and obtest all good
Christians to joyn with us, and now discharge their dutie to God and the King;
so we shall not be diverted from maintaining of all those who shall faithfully joyn
herein, with an uninterested regard by what means soever, humbly praying the
Almighty Lord, to direct us by his Spirit, and witnesse by his power, that he is our
strong City and Rock in whom we trust. We the Gentry and others of the
Country do assent to, and Cordially joyne with the Army in all the points of
this Declaration, and shall be equally careful of their ingagement, as of our own,
and prosecution thereof, shall run all the hazards with them.

FINIS.



